

be similarly drastic. With the state's budget situation still in question due to negative trends in the national economy that threaten to overwhelm state efforts to restore growth, we clearly cannot replace the lost federal money; and

Whereas, as the federal government continues to grapple with the budget and economic growth measures, there is still time for Congress to correct the looming crisis in law enforcement efforts in the states. We know that cuts in funding now, when the economic picture is growing bleak, will make the need to effective law enforcement a victim assistance more important than ever. Congress must restore funding to the Byrne program to fiscal year 2007 levels through a supplemental appropriations act in order to prevent the curtailment or cancellation of key criminal justice programs; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate*, That we memorialize the United States Congress to reverse cuts to the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program; and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-346. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to take the actions necessary to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides medical care to veterans who have risked their lives to protect the security of the nation; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has the largest integrated health care system in the United States; and

Whereas, the missions of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs include providing health care to veterans, educating and training health care personnel, conducting medical research, serving as backup to the United States Department of Defense, and supporting communities in times of crisis; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs provides a wide range of specialized services to meet the unique needs of veterans, including treatment and care for spinal cord injury, blindness, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, amputation injuries, mental health issues, substance abuse, and conditions requiring long-term care; and

Whereas, federal discretionary funding for veterans' health care is controlled by the executive branch and congress through the budget and appropriations process; and

Whereas, the United States Governmental Accountability Office report in 2005 highlighted the lack of resources and staffing available to the United States Veterans Administration for processing an increasing backlog of veterans' claims; and

Whereas, discretionary funding for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs lags behind both medical inflation and the increased demands for services; and

Whereas, former United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi has publicly stated that the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has been struggling to provide health care to the rapidly rising number of veterans who require health care; and

Whereas, it is imperative that the members of congress make funding health care for veterans a major priority. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the United States Congress to ensure adequate funding for veterans' health care. Be it further

*Resolved*, That the legislature does hereby express profound and enduring gratitude to veterans for sacrifices made while serving in the United States Armed Forces, particularly those who suffer as a result of injuries sustained during military service. Be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the president and vice president of the United States and to the members of Louisiana's congressional delegation.

POM-347. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to adopt and implement the recommendations of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission was established by the Congress of the United States in Public Law 108-136, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004; and

Whereas, between May 2005 and October 2007, the commission conducted an in-depth analysis of the benefits and services available to veterans, service members, their survivors, and their families to compensate and provide assistance for the effects of disabilities and deaths attributable to military service; and

Whereas, the commission examined the appropriateness and purpose of benefits, benefit levels and payment rates, and the processes and purposes used to determine eligibility for such services; and

Whereas, the commission reviewed past studies on these subjects, the legislative history of these benefit programs, and related issues that have been debated repeatedly over several decades; and

Whereas, in federal fiscal year 2006, the Department of Veterans' Affairs expended over forty billion dollars on a wide array of these benefits and services for veterans, service members, their survivors and their families; and

Whereas, the commission identified eight principles that it believes should guide the development and delivery of future benefits for veterans, service members, and their families; and

Whereas, the following are those eight principles:

(1) Benefits should recognize the often enormous sacrifices of military service as a continuing cost of war, and commend military service as the highest obligation of citizenship.

(2) The goal of disability benefits should be rehabilitation and reintegration into civilian life to the maximum extent possible and preservation of the veterans' dignity.

(3) Benefits should be uniformly based on severity of service-connected disability without regard to the circumstances of the disability (wartime vs. peacetime, combat vs. training, or geographical location).

(4) Benefits and services should be provided that collectively compensate for the consequence of service-connected disability on the average impairment of earnings capacity, the ability to engage in usual life activities, and quality of life.

(5) Benefits and standards for determining benefits should be updated or adapted frequently based on changes in the economic and social impact of disability and impairment, advances in medical knowledge and technology, and the evolving nature of warfare and military service.

(6) Benefits should include access to a full range of health care provided at no cost to

service-disabled veterans. Priority for care must be based on service connection and degree of disability.

(7) Funding and resources to adequately meet the needs of service-disabled veterans and their families must be fully provided while being aware of the burden on current and future generations.

(8) Benefits to our nation's service-disabled veterans must be delivered in a consistent, fair, equitable, and timely manner; and

Whereas, with these principles clearly in mind, the commission has urged the nation to set a firm foundation upon which to shape and evolve a system of appropriate, and generous benefits for the disabled veterans of today and tomorrow. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to adopt and implement the recommendations of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission. Be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2939. A bill to expand and improve mental health care and reintegration programs for members of the National Guard and Reserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2940. A bill to promote green energy production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2941. A bill to improve airport runway safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 2942. A bill to authorize funding for the National Advocacy Center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2943. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2944. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to examine and improve the child welfare workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 2945. A bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice occurs on the date on which the aggrieved person knew or should have known that the person was affected by the decision or practice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2946. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make a stillborn child an insurable dependent for purposes for the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2947. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public for maple-tapping activities under programs administered by States and tribal governments; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 2948. A bill to provide quality, affordable health insurance for small employers and individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 2949. A bill to establish the Mark O. Hatfield Scholarship and Excellence in Tribal Governance Foundation and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2950. A bill to increase housing, awareness, and navigation demonstration services (HANDS) for individuals with autism spectrum disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. LAUTENBERG)):

S. Res. 542. A resolution designating April 2008 as "National STD Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. Res. 543. A resolution designating the week beginning May 11, 2008, as "National Nursing Home Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 329

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services.

S. 335

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from using private debt collection companies, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that exchange-rate misalignment by any foreign nation is a countervailable export subsidy, to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988 to clarify the definition of manipulation with respect to currency, and for other purposes.

S. 935

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a

cosponsor of S. 935, a bill to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1340

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1340, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to geriatric assessments and chronic care coordination services, and for other purposes.

S. 1366

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1366, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the consolidation of life insurance companies with other companies.

S. 1998

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1998, a bill to reduce child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 2056

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2056, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore financial stability to Medicare anesthesiology teaching programs for resident physicians.

S. 2161

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2161, a bill to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of independent pharmacies and health plans and health insurance issuers (including health plans under parts C and D of the Medicare Program) in the same manner as such laws apply to protected activities under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear.

S. 2536

At the request of Mr. BAYH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2536, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts to the United States in the case of veterans who die as a result of a service-connected disability incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

S. 2575

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2575, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 2682

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2682, a bill to direct United States funding to the United Nations Population Fund for certain purposes.

S. 2704

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2704, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of services of qualified respiratory therapists performed under the general supervision of a physician.

S. 2705

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2705, a bill to authorize programs to increase the number of nurses within the Armed Forces through assistance for service as nurse faculty or education as nurses, and for other purposes.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S. 2774

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2774, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 2775

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2775, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to treat certain domestically controlled foreign persons performing services under contract